

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03065

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S
WASHINGTON TRIP, FEBRUARY 21-22

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2601, (B) BRUSSELS 1273, (C) BRUSSELS
892, (D) BRUSSELS 2509

1. FEBRUARY 14 MISSION OFFICER CONTACTED MEMBER OF EC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON'S PERSONAL STAFF
TO OBTAIN A READOUT ON PLANS AND OBJECTIVES CONCERNING
CHEYSSON'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED
THAT SCHEDULE, WHICH IS BEING ARRANGED BY EC COMMISSION
OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, IS WELL IN HAND AND THAT, IN ADDI-
TION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND AID, THE COMMISSIONER
WILL BE VISITING CONGRESS, IBRD, AND, HOPEFULLY, THE NSC.
CHEYSSON WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PHILIPPE SOUBESTRE AND
JEAN-CLAUDE EUDE FROM HIS PERSONAL STAFF, AND JEAN DURIEUX,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, DG- VIII (DEVELOPMENT). PIERRE
MALVE OF EC UN MISSION IN NEW YORK MAY BE PRESENT DURING
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PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. CHEYSSON HAS TWO-FOLD OBJECTIVE IN
GOING TO WASHINGTON: (A) TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUBJECTS
OF TOPICAL INTEREST SUCH AS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE (INCLUDING
COMMON FUND, DEBT, AND COMMODITIES), LOME CONVENTION,
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, ETC.; AND (B) TO BECOME PERSONALLY

ACQUAINTED WITH KEY FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO LEARN FIRST-HAND OF NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. REGARDING LOME CONVENTION, CHEYSSON REPORTEDLY WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN OPERATIONS OF PRESENT CONVENTION AND OUTLINE EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON "LOME II," TO BEGIN LATE THIS YEAR. (FYI: FEBRUARY 15 COMMISSION APPROVED GUIDELINES - SEPTTEL - GOVERNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE 53 AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC ACP COUNTRIES, ON REVISED LOME CONVENTION. THESE GUIDELINES, IN THE FORM OF A COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE EC COUNCIL, ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FULL COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT UNTIL MAY OR EARLY JUNE; WE ARE TOLD BY EC PERMDEL OFFICIALS THAT THEY MAY BE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED BY THE MEMBER STATES BY THAT DATE. END FYI.)

4. ON FEB. 16, DURIEUX INFORMED A MISSION OFFICER THAT CHEYSSON WILL BE DISCUSSING NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES IN WASHINGTON ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY AS AN EC COMMISSIONER AND NOT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION APPROVED BY THE FEB. 7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL (REF B) THAT THE COMMUNITY (INCLUDING COMMISSION) SHOULD SOUND OUT INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING STATES REGARDING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE DIALOGUE. A BRITISH PERMDEL OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT HMG AND SOME OTHER MEMBER STATES ARE CONCERNED THAT CHEYSSON'S "CONSULTATIONS" IN ADVANCE OF AGREEMENT BY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EC COUNCIL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES COULD CREATE PROBLEMS. THE BRITISH ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED REGARDING THE IMPRESSION CHEYSSON MIGHT CONVEY TO G-77 STATES REGARDING POSSIBLE EC CONCESSIONS ON THE COMMON FUND. THEY ALSO EXPECT HIM, HOWEVER, TO KEEP THE MEMBER STATES FULLY INFORMED OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

5. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON COMMON FUND, CHEYSSON WILL PROBABLY DRAW ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED GUIDELINES SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL JANUARY 25 (AND POUCHED EARLIER TO EUR/RPE-MCLEAN). THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDED POSITION IS IN LINE WITH THAT SUMMARIZED REF C EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSES THAT EACH ICA BE REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT ONLY ONE THIRD OF ITS MAXIMUM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS, RATHER THAN TWO THIRDS AS STATED PARA 1 C REF C.

6. ON LDC DEBT RELIEF, DURIEUX SAID CHEYSSON IS HOPING THAT DURING HIS VISIT THE U.S. WILL AGREE THAT THE EC-U.S. CIEC DEBT FEATURES PAPER CAN BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED FOR THE UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL BEGINNING MARCH 6 (PARA 8,

REF A). ALAN RUSSELL, CHIEF OF UNCTAD RELATIONS IN
DG VIII, TOLD A MISSION OFFICER IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION
FEBRUARY 15 THAT A U.S. DECISION IS URGENTLY REQUIRED
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IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME REMAINING TO CLEAR A POSSIBLE
UNILATERAL EC DEBT FEATURE PAPER THROUGH THE EC COUNCIL
FOR THE TDB. HINTON

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